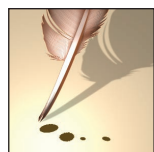




The first nurse-led European diabetes nursing journal



It seems almost unbelievable that this is the first issue of the first nurse-led European diabetes journal. Surely *European Diabetes Nursing* should have existed for many years? Astonishing isn't it? This is especially so, given that we make up the largest part of the health care workforce in hospitals, clinics and the community – and we also work in academia and have a Professor of Diabetes Nursing (who has published in this first issue), in industry and in the non-profit sector. It is also astonishing given that in recent years health care professionals in diabetes have had to expand their role due to scientific and technological advances, and have come to grips with much-publicised ethical dilemmas. Many journals cover different aspects of diabetes from the medical perspective, but as a nurse-led initiative this journal is unique – and it is definitely needed!

European Diabetes Nursing aims to embrace clinical practice, research, systems of care and health care policy. We shall promote diabetes nursing as a profession that works within a multi-agency environment. To accomplish this we will publish original research, reviews, case reports and political comment. This means that you have a home for your work from now on. *European Diabetes Nursing* will be sent to members of the Federation of European Nurses in Diabetes (FEND) and other health professionals in diabetes throughout Europe, along with policy makers at both a national and a European level. We want the journal to become the instrument to promote the changes advocated so eloquently by FEND: to ensure access across the enlarged European Union (EU) to the highest standards of treatment for people with diabetes. 'The co-operation of media and health care leaders is needed' – as stated by Prof Francine Kaufman (FEND conference 2003) while discussing how changes in lifestyle and environment have contributed to the increase in diabetes. Prof Kaufman continued 'we all have a responsibility together to change the way we live our lives.' In our first issue you will find examples of how nurses and other professions involved in diabetes are doing this.

In this issue of *European Diabetes Nursing*, Mrs Anne-Marie Felton highlights the staggering number of people with diabetes across Europe, the inequality of care due to lack of basic health care provision and also the

lack of specialist diabetes nurses, and the social and economic cost of this debilitating disease to the person with diabetes and to their family. However, numbers sometimes do not bring home the human impact of the disease and this has been eloquently described by Mr John Bowis, Member of the European Parliament (MEP) who, in a very personal way, explains why he is an advocate of diabetes care and research at the European policy level. In future issues we will hear more about the progress he and other elected representatives are making on our behalf.

One of the reasons that diabetes was included in the EU Sixth Framework Research Programme (2002–2006) was due to the strenuous lobbying by the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) and FEND. On the strength of the collaborative efforts of FEND together with the EASD, the International Diabetes Federation (IDF), the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) and leading diabetes pharmaceutical companies, a central body – EURADIA (European Research Area in Diabetes) – was created, to co-ordinate and promote research into diabetes across Europe. We are delighted that in this issue Dr Carole Brendel, the Scientific Officer, describes the work of EURADIA to highlight that as European health professionals we have at our disposal a tool to help display our research and to network with other colleagues across the continent.

We begin our section of original articles with a study by Professor Karin Wikblad who, together with colleagues from Uppsala, presents a programme called 'I'm the Boss' which is based on the person with diabetes being an active participant in their care and setting their own goals. To support such goals, the development of nurse-led clinics is being tested in many countries and the experience of Ms Jacqui Charlton *et al.* from the UK summarises the experience of one such clinic during a pilot study. Our first 'Debate' article, by Ms Merce Vidal *et al.* from Barcelona, on the transition of adolescents to an adult clinic has raised an important issue which will, we hope, spark an exchange of different experiences in this field.

An entirely different type of article, 'Talking Point', describes the work Ms Jo Head undertook with a blind man with diabetes. Their journey from initial confusion and disappointment to successful achievement of independent self-blood glucose monitoring makes



good reading and, I hope, will encourage more articles such as this in the future.

As demonstrated in these articles, education is an important part of the health professional's work and the nurse specialist is often the main reference point for treatment and support for people with diabetes and their families. Nurses are also the back-bone of large-scale, clinical studies into diabetes, which in recent years have told us so much about the progression of the disease and the treatment options. It is, therefore, often the nurse to whom the person with diabetes, their carer or the healthy person will turn in order to talk about what they have heard on television, or read in general interest magazines or on the Internet. It is our responsibility as professionals to be knowledgeable and informed and to be able to discriminate good information from the hype. The Internet is a wonderful resource, but its often indiscriminate and un-reviewed content can be confusing. By publishing a wide selection of relevant diabetes research and comment, *European Diabetes Nursing* can help to redress this imbalance. It can provide a unique platform where a wide variety of issues can be discussed. This is an opportunity for all of us to increase our awareness of diabetes health care issues and to contribute to the pool of knowledge.

We hope that *European Diabetes Nursing* can become a place for lively correspondence and discussion – we want you to tell us when you have something to say and we invite comment on the articles we publish. We want to hear about diabetes care and education in the countries that now make up the EU and to hear about ini-

tiatives that improve the lives of people with diabetes, the profession and the community. As Europeans we have diverse cultures and lifestyles from South to North and East to West, which is one of our strengths, but enthusiasm, creativity and intelligent leadership are not geographically distributed and this strength should be reflected in *European Diabetes Nursing*.

To help with the task of editing *European Diabetes Nursing* an international, mainly European, Editorial Board has been enlisted (please see the members' names on page 5). Our Editorial Board covers a broad spectrum across diabetes care, education and research and I am incredibly grateful to the members of the Board for agreeing to participate – giving up some of their precious time to ensure that quality peer-review is given to each article and that a balanced approach is taken to the content of the journal.

There are two people who have been tirelessly working towards the launch of *European Diabetes Nursing*, without whom the journal would not exist and whom I would like to thank. Firstly, Mrs Anne-Marie Felton, the Chairman of FEND, who, along with the FEND Executive Committee, has worked tirelessly to highlight the importance of specialist nursing in diabetes across Europe for the benefit of people with diabetes. Secondly, Mrs Tracey Curtis, from the publisher John Wiley & Sons Ltd, has done wonders in supporting and organising the journal.

Sarah Hills

Editor-in-Chief, *European Diabetes Nursing*
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Conference Notice



Federation of European Nurses in Diabetes

10th Annual Conference

Athens Hilton Hotel, Athens, Greece
9-10 September 2005

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